



# THE LESSER LIGHT

by Pastor Stephen Bohr

## Satan's Rage against the Remnant

**Revelation 12:17:** *"And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."*

**Revelation 19:10:**

*"And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me: "See that you do not do that! I am your **fellow servant**, and of your brethren who have the **testimony of Jesus**. Worship God! For the **testimony of Jesus** is the **spirit of prophecy**."*

**Revelation 22:8, 9:**

*"Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me: "See that you do not do that for I am your **fellow servant** and of your **brethren the prophets** and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."*

## When and Where

**Revelation 12:16, 17** explains the rise of the prophetic gift in the end time:

**Among whom:** The remnant

**Where:** On the earth

**When:** At the end of the 1260 years

**Characteristics:** Keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ

## Meaning of Terms

In the writings of John, the word for 'have' (*exoo*) expresses the idea of possession (for examples see Revelation 1:18; John 5:26; Revelation 3:1). This means that at the end of time the remnant of Jesus will **possess** the testimony of Jesus.

The gift is called 'the **spirit** of prophecy' because prophecy is one of the gifts imparted by the Holy Spirit (I Peter 1:10-12; Zachariah 7:12; II Peter 1:21; Revelation 2:11)

Ellen White's use of the expression 'spirit of prophecy':

The four-volume precursor of the five volume set of the Conflict of the Ages series was called 'Spirit of Prophecy'

*"It was Christ that spoke to His people through the **prophets**. The apostle Peter, writing to the Christian church, says that the **prophets** "prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow." 1 Peter 1:10, 11. It is the voice of Christ that speaks to us through the Old Testament. "The **testimony of Jesus** is the spirit of prophecy." Revelation 19:10." Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 366, 367*

*"Through **holy angels** God revealed to Enoch His purpose to destroy the world by a flood, and He also opened more fully to him the plan of redemption. By the **spirit of prophecy** He carried him down through the generations that should live after the Flood, and showed him the great events connected with the second coming of Christ and the end of the world." Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 85*

Regarding Simeon: *"The **spirit of prophecy** was upon this man of God, and while Joseph and Mary stood by, wondering at his words, he blessed them, and said unto Mary, 'Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.'" The Desire of Ages, p. 55*

*"Yet now when I send you a testimony of warning and reproof, many of you declare it to be merely the opinion of Sister White. You have thereby insulted the **Spirit of God**. You know how the Lord has manifested Himself through the **spirit of prophecy**. Past, present, and future have passed before me. I have been shown faces that I had never seen, and years afterward I knew them when I saw them. I have been aroused from my sleep with a vivid sense of subjects*

*previously presented to my mind; and I have written, at midnight, letters that have gone across the continent and, arriving at a crisis, have saved great disaster to the cause of God. This has been my work for many years. A power has impelled me to reprove and rebuke wrongs that I had not thought of. Is this work of the last thirty-six years from above or from beneath?"*  
Testimonies for the Church, volume 5, pp. 64, 65

In 1 Corinthians 12 the apostle Paul compares the gifts of the Spirit with different parts of the body. The gift of prophecy is the 'eyes' of the church:

- 1 Corinthians 12:14, 18, 27, 28: Church is compared to a **body**
- 1 Samuel 9:9: Prophets were called '**seers**'
- Proverbs 29:18: Where there is no **vision** the people perish
- Isaiah 29:10: When the gift is ignored the people are **blind**
- Revelation 3:18: Laodicea is **blind**

The gift of prophecy is for God's people and is generally rejected by them: 1 Corinthians 14:22; II Chronicles 36:15, 16; Isaiah 30:8-11; Matthew 23:29, 30

Some **will be martyred** at the end for hanging on to the testimony of Jesus (Revelation 20:4)

During the last several years I have had the privilege of preaching in several evangelistic meetings at the church I pastor in Fresno California. Having been the pastor of the church for the better part of sixteen years I have had to find new ways of presenting the same good old time message each time. A few years ago I decided to present a series titled '*What Jesus Said*'. The objective of this series was to present the full message of the Bible from the perspective of the four Gospels and the book of Acts. It was actually quite easy to find abundant information on all the doctrines of the Bible in these five books—that is, except one doctrine.

As I prayed and meditated on how best to present the gift of prophecy I kept on coming to a dead end. Don't get me wrong. As I researched the four Gospels and the book of Acts I found much information about prophets, both false and true. But I was particularly interested in presenting the subject matter from the perspective of the **end time gift** as it would exist in the **remnant church**.

I struggled with this for several weeks and then one day as the deadline for the meetings was drawing ever closer, I was sitting in my office, praying and reflecting upon this, when suddenly a thought came across my mind. It was almost like I heard a voice saying: 'Study the life, message and mission of John the Baptist.' So I went to *Strong's Concordance* and looked up each and

every reference to John the Baptist. As I studied along I discovered a striking parallel between John the Baptist and another prophet that God raised up to guide the end time remnant church. This book draws that parallel.

## **The Message and Mission of John the Baptist**

### **Great Advent Revival**

It was the spring and summer of the year 27 A. D. and momentous events were taking place in and around Jerusalem. A great religious revival was transpiring among God's people. They were aware of the fact that significant events were about to take place. The final week of the seventy week prophecy was about to begin and there was a great revival and expectancy among the people. Multitudes flocked to John the Baptist in the wilderness, confessing their sins and being baptized by him. This is how Matthew described it:

*"Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him <sup>6</sup> and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins" Matthew 3:5, 6*

There can be little doubt that one reason for the excitement was that the final week of the seventy week prophecy was about to begin (see Daniel 9:24-27). Furthermore, the Old Testament ended with the promise that God would send Elijah before the great and terrible Day of the Lord. John the Baptist seemed to fit the description of Elijah. He lived in the desert like Elijah, he ate what Elijah ate, he dressed like Elijah and he called the people to repentance like Elijah. Immediately before beginning His ministry in Galilee, Jesus alluded to the prophecy of the seventy weeks when He said:

*"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*  
(Mark 1:15)

The reason why Jesus stated that the time was fulfilled is because his anointing at His baptism had just taken place in harmony with the prophecy of the seventy weeks and the kingdom of God was at hand because he was about to officially begin His ministry public ministry.

### **Not the Prophet**

John the Baptist was a humble and modest man. He did not seek to attract attention to himself. As we shall see, his main function was to give testimony to Jesus. When the Jews sent priests and Levites to ask him if he was the Christ or Elijah or the prophet His answer was: "I am

not.” (John 1:19-21). Notably, though John stated that he was not Elijah or the prophet, Jesus identified him as the greatest of the prophets and as Elijah. Jesus said that he was Elijah. The fact is that he did not claim to be Elijah.

## **Messenger of the Lord**

If not the prophet, then who was he? He was the **messenger of the Lord** (see also, **Malachi 3:1**). His mission had already been predicted in Bible prophecy.

### **Luke 7:27:**

*“This is he of whom it is written: ‘Behold, I send **My messenger** before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.’”*

## **Prepare a people to receive Jesus at His first coming**

**John 1:23:** *“He said: ‘I am ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said.’”*

**Matthew 3:1-3:** *“In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup> and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” <sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight.’”*

**Luke 1:16, 17:** *“And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”*

## **Restore all things: Elijah is the great restorer**

**Matthew 17:11-13:** *“Jesus answered and said to them, “Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. <sup>12</sup> But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise [if you reject the Lord’s messenger you will end up rejecting the Lord as well] the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.” <sup>13</sup> Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.”*

## More than a Prophet

Jesus not only said that John the Baptist was a prophet but he said that John was the greatest of the prophets. John the Baptist was **more than a prophet** (Luke 7:26). He was the link between the two dispensations.

“Aside from the joy that John found in his mission, his life had been one of sorrow. His voice had been seldom heard except in the wilderness. His was a lonely lot. And he was not permitted to see the result of his own labors. It was not his privilege to be with Christ and witness the manifestation of divine power attending the greater light. It was not for him to see the blind restored to sight, the sick healed, and the dead raised to life. He did not behold the light that shone through every word of Christ, shedding glory upon the promises of prophecy. The least disciple who saw Christ's mighty works and heard His words was in this sense more highly privileged than John the Baptist, and therefore is said to have been greater than he.”  
The Desire of Ages, p. 220

### **Luke 7:26:**

*“But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and **more than a prophet**.”*

## No Miracles but what he said about Jesus was true

John the Baptist was not a **miracle worker**: The Jews were impressed with signs and wonders. They were always asking for a sign and thought that the sign would prove whether a messenger was from God or not (Matthew 12:38, 39; 16:4; John 2:18; 4:48; 6:30; 12:18). Notably we are told that John performed no sign:

**John 10:41, 42:** *“Then many came to Him and said, “John performed **no sign**, but all the things that **John spoke** about this Man were true.”<sup>42</sup> And many believed in Him there.”*

It was the truthfulness of John's words that authenticated him as the Lord's messenger, not the miracles that he performed.

## Testimony of Jesus

John the Baptist had the **testimony of Jesus** (John 5:31-33; 1:15; see also John 1:7, 8, 15; 21:24, 25; Acts 10:43; 22:15-18; 23:11; I Corinthians 1:4-8)

### **John 5:31-33:**

*“If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. <sup>32</sup> There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. <sup>33</sup> You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth.”*

## **John was not the light**

John denied that he was the light

### **John 1:6-8:**

*“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light that all through him might believe. <sup>8</sup> He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.”*

## **A Lesser Light**

John’s purpose was to bear witness (in Greek the words that are translated ‘testimony’ and ‘witness’ are the same word) to the light. Yet Jesus called John a bright and shining light (*luchnos*: portable lamp or candle; John 5:35).

### **John 5:35, 36:**

*“He was the burning and shining lamp [*luchnos*], and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. <sup>36</sup> But I have a greater witness than John’s; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.”*

In other words, John was a lesser light which was to lead men and women to the greater light—Jesus Christ (see John 5:36 where Jesus actually uses the word ‘greater’ to refer to Himself)

## **Scriptures also a Lesser Light**

But notice that the Scriptures also gave witness to Jesus. Thus there are two sources which testify of Jesus: John the Baptist and the written Scriptures of the Old Testament. There was a canonical and a non-canonical source to give witness to Jesus.

No book can fully reveal Jesus Christ in all of His glory. Compared to Jesus, the Bible is only a pale reflection of who Jesus is in His person. The greater light is the sun and the lesser light is the moon. The light of the moon has the purpose of reflecting the light of the sun to the earth in the darkness of the night.

**John 5:39:**

***“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.”***

## **Why Two Lesser Lights?**

So we have two lesser lights, the Old Testament Scriptures and John the Baptist. The **question** immediately suggests itself: **Why** did the people need a non-canonical source if they had the written Scriptures of the Old Testament? Or, even further, why would they even need a lesser light if they would soon have the **greater light** in their midst?

Let me ask another question: Could the Jews have discerned Jesus as the Messiah simply by studying the written Scriptures? The answer is a resounding yes. The Old Testament was saturated with Messianic prophecies:

**Every event** of the life of Jesus was previously **choreographed** in the Scriptures:

- He would enter Jerusalem on a **donkey** in the midst of **great acclamation**: Zechariah 9:9
- He would **cast the money changers** out of the temple: Jeremiah 7:11
- **Zeal for God’s house** would consume him: Psalm 69:9
- He would be sold for **30 pieces** of silver: Zechariah 11:13
- His **disciples** would all **forsake** Him: Zechariah 13:7
- He would die a **vicarious death**: Isaiah 53:3-6
- He would say on the cross: ‘**My God, My God**, why have you forsaken Me’: Psalm 22:1
- His **hands and feet** would be **pierced**: Psalm 22:16
- **Lots** would be cast upon His **garments**: Psalm 22:18
- His **heart** would be **poured out like water**: Psalm 22:14
- His enemies would **spit in His face**: Isaiah 50:6
- His enemies would **dare Him to come down** from the cross: Psalm 22:8
- None of His **bones** would be broken: Exodus 12:46
- On the cross He would say: ‘**I thirst**’: Psalm 22:15; 69:21



- His passion would last for **three days and three nights**: Jonah 2:1
- His **burial** would be with the **rich**: Isaiah 53:9
- He would **resurrect** from the dead on the **third day**: Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 53:9-11
- He would **ascend to heaven**: Psalm 24
- He would **sit on the Father's right hand**: Psalm 110:1, 4

I ask once again: **Could the Jews have been ready** to receive Jesus as the Messiah simply by studying the **written Scriptures**? The answer is a **resounding yes!**

## The People were in darkness

The answer is actually quite simple: The people had fallen into **gross darkness** and gone astray because of their **neglect of the Scriptures** during the **period between the Testaments**. All kinds of **false teachings and practices** came in during this period (John 1:5; Isaiah 60:1-2) therefore they needed a lesser light to draw attention to the greater light.

**Matt 4:16**: *"The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned."*

**Luke 1:78-79**: *"Through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; <sup>79</sup> To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."*

Give the illustration of the **light switch** in the tape room. A flashlight led to the light switch

## No New Light

The role of John was not to bring in **new light** but rather to turn the attention of the people to the **light already given**. He was to **awaken interest** in the study of Old Testament prophecy. In other words, the role of John was **complementary** to Scripture, not **supplementary**. After all, John fit perfectly with the description of the forerunner who would prepare the way for the Messiah. People should then have gone to the written Scriptures to find the details about how the Messiah would come.

You see, those who **claimed to be God's people** and boasted at **having the Old Testament** were **violating every principle** of the Word of God. They professed to be **waiting** for the Messiah. They **professed** to love God. They **claimed to have a close relationship** with Him and yet they crucified

Christ because they misunderstood the Old Testament and rejected the clarification given by the lesser light. Because they rejected the message of John they ended up rejecting Jesus.

We can imagine the Jews saying, '**We have Moses,**' but they did not understand or practice the teachings of Moses. They **boasted** of their knowledge of the **Scriptures** and yet did not **understand nor obey** them at all. John was called to attract attention to the Word already given.

**John 5:39-40, 45-47:**

*"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which **testify of Me.** <sup>40</sup> But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. <sup>45</sup> Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you — Moses, in whom you trust. <sup>46</sup> For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for **he wrote about Me.** <sup>47</sup> But if you do not **believe his writings,** how will you **believe My words?**"*

I am of the firm belief that ***If the Jews had understood and obeyed the writings of Moses, John would never have been raised up by God!!!***

John **lighted up the Old Testament prophecies** about the Messiah. He presented Jesus as the **Lamb** of God, a clear reference to the **sanctuary** sacrifice and **Isaiah 53.** He took from the Old Testament and showed how it was being fulfilled in Jesus. He exalted the Old Testament and made it vivid, alive and **present truth.** He rebuked, reproofed. Even baptism was known in the times of John. Certainly they knew that in the sanctuary things were cleansed by water. They knew the story of Naaman. They knew that leprosy as a symbol of sin and that Naaman had been cleansed by submerging himself in the Jordan seven times.

## **Pain in the Neck**

He was a **fly** in the ointment, a **pain** in the neck, a **speck** in the eye. He was **no pushover** (see Matthew 11:7-8). He was not politically correct. He told it like it is. He rebuked sin fearlessly and played no favorites. Of course this is what won him enemies.

**Matthew 11:7, 8:** *He rebuked Herod for committing adultery with his brother's wife and lost his head as a result. He was totally unafraid of speaking the truth.*

*“As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.”*

## **Restorer and Preparer**

The role of John was to **prepare** a people for the first coming of Jesus (Luke 1:17; Matthew 3:1-3; Malachi 3:1). By **revival** (repentance) and **reformation** (bearing fruit) the people were to wait expectantly for their **bridegroom**. John was the **liaison** or **go-between**, between Jesus Christ (the groom) and Israel (the bride). He was to prepare the way for the wedding (**John 3:28-30**)

Jesus stated that John the Baptist was Elijah so we must understand the role of Elijah in the Old Testament. Elijah was the great restorer. Elijah did not introduce any new truths. He simply called Israel to repent and return to the religion of the fathers. This is why he rebuilt the altar of the Lord and invoked the God of the covenant founders of the Old Testament—Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In Malachi 4 we are once again told that the end time Elijah would be a great restorer. In Matthew 17:12 we are told that John the Baptist came to restore all things.

In New Testament times, the friend of the bridegroom was responsible for making all the **preparations** for the wedding so that all was **ready** when the groom should come. The friend of the bridegroom was not to take the glory for himself. The **glory was for the groom** who was marrying the bride. The best man does not want all eyes centered on himself at the wedding. **He decreases so that the bridegroom can increase!** In other words, he blends into the woodwork so that all can see the bridegroom.

The Old Testament had **prophecies** about the coming of the bridegroom to marry his bride. The **matchmaker** (John the Baptist) has come to set up all the arrangements. Yet the bride rejected her husband. By rejecting the work of the **matchmaker**, they rejected the bridegroom as well. Let's see how John the Baptist was treated.

## **Despised and Rejected by the leaders**

He was accused of being demon possessed.

### **Matthew 11:18:**

*"For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, '**He has a demon.**'"*

### **Jesus to the chief priests and elders Matthew 21:32:**

*"For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him."*

**Luke 7:29-30:** He was **rejected by the leaders**, especially.

*“And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. <sup>30</sup> But the Pharisees and lawyers **rejected the will of God** for themselves, not having been baptized by him.”*

They **knew Him not** (same expression as John 1:10-11). Because they did with John as they pleased, they **also did with Jesus** as they pleased. And these were the people who claimed to go by the Scriptures!! By rejecting the lesser light, they rejected the greater light!!

**Matthew 17:11-13:**

*“Jesus answered and said to them, “Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. <sup>12</sup> But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they **did not know him** but did to him **whatever they wished**. **Likewise** the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.” <sup>13</sup> Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.”*

It is a simple fact that true prophets have never been particularly loved by the people to whom they are sent. In fact, they were hated by those who professed to be God’s chosen people. Before the Babylonian captivity God told Israel:

*“And the Lord God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. 16 But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was no remedy.” (II Chronicles 36:15, 16)*

*And Jesus rebuked the scribes and Pharisees:*

*“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!” (Matthew 23:37)*

Jeremiah was thrown into the dungeon, Elijah was hunted like a wild beast, Isaiah was sawn asunder, John was beheaded, Jesus was crucified, Stephen was stoned and the list goes on and on.

**John grew in Understanding**

Prophets are not omniscient or infallible. They were human. They grew in their understanding of truth. At first they might not understand fully the message that God is trying to convey through them. John, for example, at the beginning of his ministry thought that there would be only one coming of the Messiah (**Matthew 3:7, 10, 12**). When he preached in the wilderness of Judea in a thundering voice predicted concerning the Messiah:

"His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." (Matthew 3:12)

Ellen White makes these incisive remarks about John's incomplete knowledge of the Messiah's coming:

*"John did not fully understand the nature of the Messiah's kingdom. He looked for Israel to be delivered from her national foes; but the coming of a King in righteousness, and the establishment of Israel as a holy nation, was the great object of his hope." The Desire of Ages, p. 103*

*"During the weeks that followed [the baptism of Jesus], John with new interest studied the prophecies and the teaching of the sacrificial service. He did not distinguish clearly the two phases of Christ's work,—as a suffering sacrifice and a conquering king,—but he saw that His coming had a deeper significance than priests or people had discerned." The Desire of Ages, p. 136*

When Jesus did not appear to measure up to his preaching, he sent a message to Jesus asking whether He was the one to come or whether they should expect another (**Matthew 11:1-3**). Was John a false prophet because he did not fully understand the work of the Messiah? Was his work as a prophet any less trustworthy because his knowledge and understanding were limited? After Jesus healed the sick, etc., John finally understood!!

## **Chapter Two: The Life, Message and Mission of Ellen G. White**

### **A great revival**

Toward the conclusion of the 2300 day prophecy there was a great revival (Daniel 8:14; Revelation 10; 14:6, 7)

## Ellen White performed no miracles

Ellen White was not a miracle worker:

*"Some declare their unbelief in the work that the Lord has given me to do because, as they say, "Mrs. E. G. White **works no miracles**." But those who look for miracles as a sign of divine guidance are in grave danger of deception."* Selected Messages, volume 2, pp. 53, 54

## No Claim to be a Prophet

Ellen White preferred not to be called a prophet:

*"During the discourse [given in Battle Creek on October 2, 1904], I said that I did not claim to be a prophetess. Some were surprised at this statement, and as much is being said in regard to it, I will make an explanation. Others have called me a prophetess, but I have never assumed that title. I have not felt that it was my duty thus to designate myself." Selected Messages, volume 1, p. 36*

*'When I was last in Battle Creek, I said before a large congregation that I did **not claim to be a prophetess**. Twice I referred to this matter, intending each time to make the statement, "**I do not claim to be a prophetess**." If I spoke otherwise than this, let all now understand that what I had in mind to say was that I **do not claim the title of prophet** or prophetess.'* Selected Messages, volume 1, p. 35

## The Lord's Messenger

What, then, was the title that Ellen White claimed? She repeatedly stated that God had called her to be His Messenger

*'Early in my youth I was asked several times, Are you a prophet? I have ever responded, I am the Lord's **messenger**. I know that many have called me a prophet, but I have made no claim to this title. My Savior declared me to be **His messenger**.'* Selected Messages, volume 1, p. 32.

*'I have had no claims to make, only that I am instructed that I am the **Lord's messenger**; that He called me in my youth to be **His messenger**, to receive His word, and to give a clear and decided message in the name of the Lord Jesus.'* Selected Messages, volume 1, p. 32.

*'To claim to be a prophetess is something that I have never done. If others call me by that name, I have no controversy with them. But my work has covered so many lines that I*

cannot call myself other than a **messenger**, sent to bear a message from the Lord to His people, and to take up work in any line that He points out.' Selected Messages, volume 1, p. 34

## More than a Conventional Prophet

The work of Ellen White was far **greater than that of a conventional prophet** (Selected Messages, volume 1, pp. 32, 34, 36). She is more in the line of Moses who had a long trajectory in leading a people out of bondage in Egypt. God chose her to restore the truth in all of its dimensions and areas of life.

*'My work includes **much more** than this name [prophetess] signifies. I regard myself as a messenger, entrusted by the Lord with messages for His people. . . . My commission embraces the work of a prophet, but it does not end there. It embraces **much more** than the minds of those who have been sowing the seeds of unbelief can comprehend.'* Selected Messages, volume 1, p. 36, 37

*"Why have I not claimed to be a prophet? Because in these days many who boldly claim that they are prophets are a reproach to the cause of Christ; and because my work includes **much more** than the word 'prophet' signifies."* Selected Messages, volume 1, p. 32

Ellen White wrote on a broad range of subjects. Our institutions and our personal lives would be far better if we followed her counsel in the following books:

- Medical (MH, CH, CDF, MM)
- Educational (ED, FCE)
- Publishing (CM)
- Administration of the work (TM)
- Ministerial (GW)
- Evangelism (EV)
- Theology (Conflict Series)
- Home and Marriage (AH)
- Devotional life (DA)
- Children (CG)
- Finances (CS)
- Health (MH, CH, CDF)



## Ellen White had the Testimony of Jesus

Ellen White had the **Testimony of Jesus** (Revelation 12:17; 19:10; 22:9)

*"And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the **testimony of Jesus Christ**."*

*"And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me: "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of **your brethren** who have the **testimony of Jesus**. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the **spirit of prophecy**."*

*"Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me: "See that you do not do that for I am your fellow servant, and of **your brethren the prophets** and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."*

*"This prophecy [Revelation 12:17] points out clearly that the **remnant church** will acknowledge God in His law and will have **the prophetic gift**. Obedience to the law of God and the **spirit of prophecy** has always distinguished the true people of God, and the test is usually given on present manifestations." Loma Linda Messages, p. 33*

## Lesser Light

Ellen White was a **lesser light** to lead men and women to the greater light, Jesus Christ:

*'Little heed is given to the Bible and the Lord has given a **lesser light** to lead men and women to the **greater light**.'* (Selected Messages, volume 3, p. 30)

*"The prophet John was the connecting link between the two dispensations. As God's representative he stood forth to show the relation of the law and the prophets to the Christian dispensation. He was the **lesser light**, which was to be **followed by a greater**. The mind of John was illuminated by the Holy Spirit that he might shed light upon his people; but **no other light ever has shone or ever will shine so clearly** upon fallen man as that which **emanated from the teaching and example of Jesus**. Christ and His mission had been but dimly understood as typified in the shadowy sacrifices. Even John had not fully comprehended the future, immortal life through the Savior." The Desire of Ages, p. 220*

*'The religion of the Jews, in consequence of their departure from God, consisted mostly in ceremony. John was the **lesser light**, which was to be followed by a **greater light**. He was to shake the confidence of the people in their traditions, and call their sins to remembrance, and lead them to repentance; that they might be prepared to appreciate **the work of Christ**.'* (Review and Herald, volume 41, number 17, April 8, 1873)

*"It was not his [John's] privilege to be with Christ and witness the manifestation of divine power attending the greater light." Conflict and Courage, p. 279*

*"With the first advent of Christ there was ushered in an era of greater light and glory; but it would indeed be sinful ingratitude to despise and ridicule the lesser light because a fuller and more glorious light had dawned. Those who despise the blessings and glory of the Jewish age are not prepared to be benefited by the preaching of the gospel. The brightness of the Father's glory, and the excellence and perfection of His sacred law, are only understood through the atonement made upon Calvary by His dear Son; but even the atonement loses its significance when the law of God is rejected." This Day With God, p. 246*

Traditionally it has been taught that the Bible is the greater light and the writings of Ellen White are the lesser light. Some have taken the word 'lesser' to mean 'inferior'. That is, they believe that Ellen White was less inspired than the Biblical prophets and that therefore she had less authority. But those who believe this miss the point. As we have shown, both the Bible and Ellen White are lesser lights that lead to Jesus Christ the Greater Light. Ellen White's inspiration and authority is equal to that of the Biblical prophets but she was called for a different function. She was not called to bring forth new truth but rather to amplify the truths already revealed and to correct those who go astray from the truth to bring them back to the truth.

## **Two Lesser Lights with different functions**

As with John, two sources give witness to Jesus, **one canonical** (the Bible) and the other **non-canonical** (the writings of Ellen G. White). As with John, the purpose of her writings is to bring attention to the **written Scriptures** which had been trampled upon and misinterpreted during the **dark ages**. If God's people had studied the Word of God with the sincere desire to obey it, Ellen White would never have been called by God. Christians today who claim to follow the Bible keep Sunday as the day of rest, eat pork, believe that the dead aren't dead, that the wicked will burn in hell forever, that we should baptize babies by sprinkling, etc. God has called Ellen White to set the record straight.

### **Testimonies for the Church, volume 2, pp. 663-66:**

*"Brother J would confuse the mind by seeking to make it appear that the light God has given through the Testimonies is an addition to the word of God, but in this he presents the matter in a false light. God has seen fit in this manner to bring the minds of His people **to His word**, to give them a clearer understanding of it. The **word of God is sufficient** to enlighten the most beclouded mind and may be understood by those who have any desire to understand it. But notwithstanding all this, **some who profess** to make the word of God their study are*

found living in direct opposition to its plainest teachings. Then, to leave men and women without excuse, God gives plain and pointed testimonies, **bringing them back to the word** that they have neglected to follow. **The word of God** abounds in **general principles** for the formation of correct habits of living, and the testimonies, general and personal, have been calculated to **call their attention more especially to these principles.**"

"If you had made **God's word your study**, with a **desire to reach the Bible standard and attain to Christian perfection**, you would not have needed the Testimonies. It is because you have neglected to acquaint yourselves with God's inspired Book that He has sought to reach you by simple, direct testimonies, **calling your attention to the words of inspiration which you had neglected to obey**, and urging you to fashion your lives in accordance with its pure and elevated teachings.

"The Lord designs to warn you, to reprove, to counsel, through the testimonies given, and to impress your minds with the **importance of the truth of His word**. **The written testimonies are not to give new light, but to impress vividly upon the heart the truths of inspiration already revealed.** Man's duty to God and to his fellow man has been distinctly specified in God's word, yet but few of you are obedient to the light given. **Additional truth is not brought out;** but God has through the Testimonies **simplified** the great truths already given and in His own chosen way brought them before the people to awaken and impress the mind with them, that all may be left **without excuse.**"

"Above all other books, the Word of God must be our study, the great textbook, the basis of all education." **The Faith I Live By**, p. 295

*The Testimonies are not to belittle the Word of God, but to exalt it and attract minds to it, that the beautiful simplicity of truth may impress all. **The Faith I Live By**, p. 295.3*

God called Ellen White to be a restorer of the truths of Scripture that had been lost during the dark ages. It is significant that John the Baptist is called Elijah on three separate occasions in the Gospels. In the Old Testament, Elijah did not present any new truths. He was called to call the people back to the true worship of Jehovah and to restore the teachings that they had gone astray from. This is the reason why he built the altar of the LORD that had been broken down. That is why he invoked the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in his prayer. John the Baptist also called the people to repentance. He did not bring any new truths but sought to restore the truth. This is what is explicitly said in Matthew 17:11. He came to bring people back to the faith of the fathers in order to prepare a people for the first coming of Jesus. Likewise Ellen White was chosen to restore the truth and thus prepare a people for the second coming of Jesus.

## Isn't Scripture Sufficient?

**Why Ellen White if we have the Bible?** For the same reason that the Jews needed John even though they had the Old Testament. They did not **understand or obey it so God, in His mercy, gave them a helping hand by simplifying and amplifying the truths already given.** Ellen White is not a source of new light but rather one who amplifies and simplifies the old light. Ellen White amplifies, magnifies, explains, clarifies, corrects, enlightens and simplifies. Example of the **talk show in Albuquerque.**

## An Example

Around the same time and place that God raised up Ellen White, another person also arose who claimed to be a prophet. He purportedly found some gold plates in **Palmyra, New York** written in ancient **Egyptian** which he translated into English. This document is known as **The Book of Mormon**. This book is referred to as 'another Testament of Jesus Christ.' [why not in contemporary English and why no manuscript trail?] It is considered a **supplement** to the Word of God (along with the **Pearl of Great Price** and **Doctrine and Covenants**). In other words, they unapologetically affirm that these books contain truths, which cannot be found in the Bible.

When the Latter Day Saints pay a visit, their **first task** is to try and convince the prospective student that **Joseph Smith** was a true prophet. As the studies continue, the **Book of Mormon** and the Bible are used together.

## Ellen White and the Bible

With Seventh-day Adventist the process is **reversed**. The student is taught the truth from Scripture alone and once all the doctrines have been clearly presented from Scripture, then the Spirit of Prophecy is presented last as a **complement** (not **supplement**) of the Bible. This is not done because the Spirit of Prophecy is of secondary importance but rather because the function of the writings of Ellen White is not to supplement Scripture but rather to complement it! Ellen White magnifies and enlarges the great truths of Scripture but she does not add any new truth! She is like a telescope. The telescope does not create stars but rather helps people see them more clearly.

"The testimonies of Sister White should not be carried **to the front**. God's Word is the unerring standard. The Testimonies are **not to take the place** of the Word. Great care should be exercised by all believers to advance these questions carefully, and always stop when you have said enough. Let all **prove their positions from the Scriptures** and

substantiate every point they claim as truth from the revealed Word of God.--Letter 12, 1890. {Evangelism, p. 256.2}

*"The more we look at the promises of the Word of God, the brighter they grow. The more we practice them, the deeper will be our understanding of them. Our position and faith is in the Bible. And never do we want any soul to bring in the Testimonies **ahead of the Bible.**"* Manuscript 7, 1894. Evangelism, p. 256

"If you lose confidence in the Testimonies you will drift away from Bible truth." Testimonies for the Church, p. 674

*"Besides the instruction in His Word, the Lord has given special testimonies to His people, not as a new revelation, but that He may set before us the plain lessons of His Word, that errors may be corrected, that the right way may be pointed out, that every soul may be without excuse." Selected Messages, volume 3, p. 31*

"The Bible must be your counselor. Study it and the testimonies God has given; for they never contradict His Word." Selected Messages, volume 3, p. 32

Ellen White **magnifies, explains, amplifies simplifies** and **highlights** the great truths of Scripture but does not add any new truth!! Ellen White is like a **telescope** or a microscope. The telescope does not create stars but rather helps us see them more clearly.

## **Despised and Rejected**

### **Accused of being demon possessed (mesmerism) or of having epileptic seizures**

Is it just possible that many persons in the Seventh-day Adventist Church today who say: '***I don't need Ellen G. White, because I have the Bible,***' are really violating every principle of God's holy Word? The fact is that Ellen G. White is despised by many within the church as much as was John the Baptist. In some churches, when Ellen White is quoted, certain members cringe but they don't mind if Max Lucado or Martin Luther is quoted.

Former pastors write books such as **The White Lie** and **Ellen G. White: Prophetess of Health** and certain **internet sites** (for example **amalgamation**) sites lambast Ellen White with vitriolic hatred, all under the pretense that because we have the Bible, we do not need Ellen G. White!! Sounds familiar, doesn't it? Ellen White foresaw all of this. Satan's last deception will be to annul the effect of the testimonies. If this is Satan's very **last deception**, then we must be close to the end because we are seeing this hatred now!!

*“The **very last deception** of Satan will be to make of **none effect** the testimony of the Spirit of God. ‘Where there is no vision, the people perish’ (Proverbs 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in **different ways** and through **different agencies**, to **unsettle the confidence** of God's remnant people in the true testimony.” Selected Messages, volume 1, p. 48*

I found out something long ago and it is this: I never form an opinion of a person or a church on the basis of what its **enemies say** (because the enemies **distort** what they believe) or even on the basis of what their **friends say** (because they often **embellish** the truth). For example, many say we teach that Satan is our Savior because of the scapegoat theology. But any impartial and fair observer will see that Azazel bears sins which have previously been forgiven in the sanctuary. Others teach that EGW believed that we are saved because we keep the Sabbath, clearly a false statement!! If you want to know the truth about Ellen White, **go directly to the source, read her writings for yourself**. Get your information first hand!!

## **Preparer and Restorer**

The fact is that God has called Ellen White to **prepare God's people for the Second Coming** as John as to prepare a people for the first coming. Will there be as few faithful ones prepared for the Second Coming as there were for the first coming? The book **The Great Controversy** is meant to map out all the dangers we must face as we prepare to enter the heavenly Canaan. Ellen White describes a group of Adventist who are found without shelter in the time of trouble. Notice, in her own words, the reason why:

*“There will be a **hatred** kindled against the testimonies which is **satanic**. The workings of Satan will be to **unsettle the faith** of the churches in them, for this reason: Satan **cannot have so clear a track** to bring in his deceptions and bind up souls in his delusions if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the Spirit of God are heeded.” Selected Messages, volume 1, p. 48*

“Those who have most to say against the testimonies are generally those who have not read them, just as those who boast of their disbelief of the Bible are those who have little knowledge of its teachings. They know that it condemns them, and their rejection of it gives them a feeling of security in their sinful course. Selected Messages, volume 1, pp. 45, 46

## **Not Omniscient or Infallible**

Ellen White was **not perfect**, nor **omniscient** nor **infallible**. She made **mistakes** (for example, the shut door). She **grew in her understanding** of truth as she progressed in her

ministry (Spiritual Gifts, Spirit of Prophecy, **and Conflict Series**). Does this make her less than a trustworthy prophet? If it does, then John the Baptist was in the same boat!

## Questions that are Asked

Can a woman be a prophet?

Wasn't John the last prophet? (John 11:13)

Ellen White's profound comprehension of Scripture:

- When did God sanctify the Sabbath?
- Jesus changing His garments
- The identity of the little book
- What knowledge is to be increased? (Evangelists)
- Iron and Clay
- **Order of Events of Daniel 11**
- **Garden of Eden**
- **Serpent could speak**
- **Was Adam with Eve at the temptation?**

How she matter of fact explains the **beast**, the **false prophet**, the **wine**, the **mark**, the **seal**, etc.



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